#8
ZENESCOPE
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RUDITIS
GRANDA
HUNT
Charmed

Issue #8

Oh, Henry

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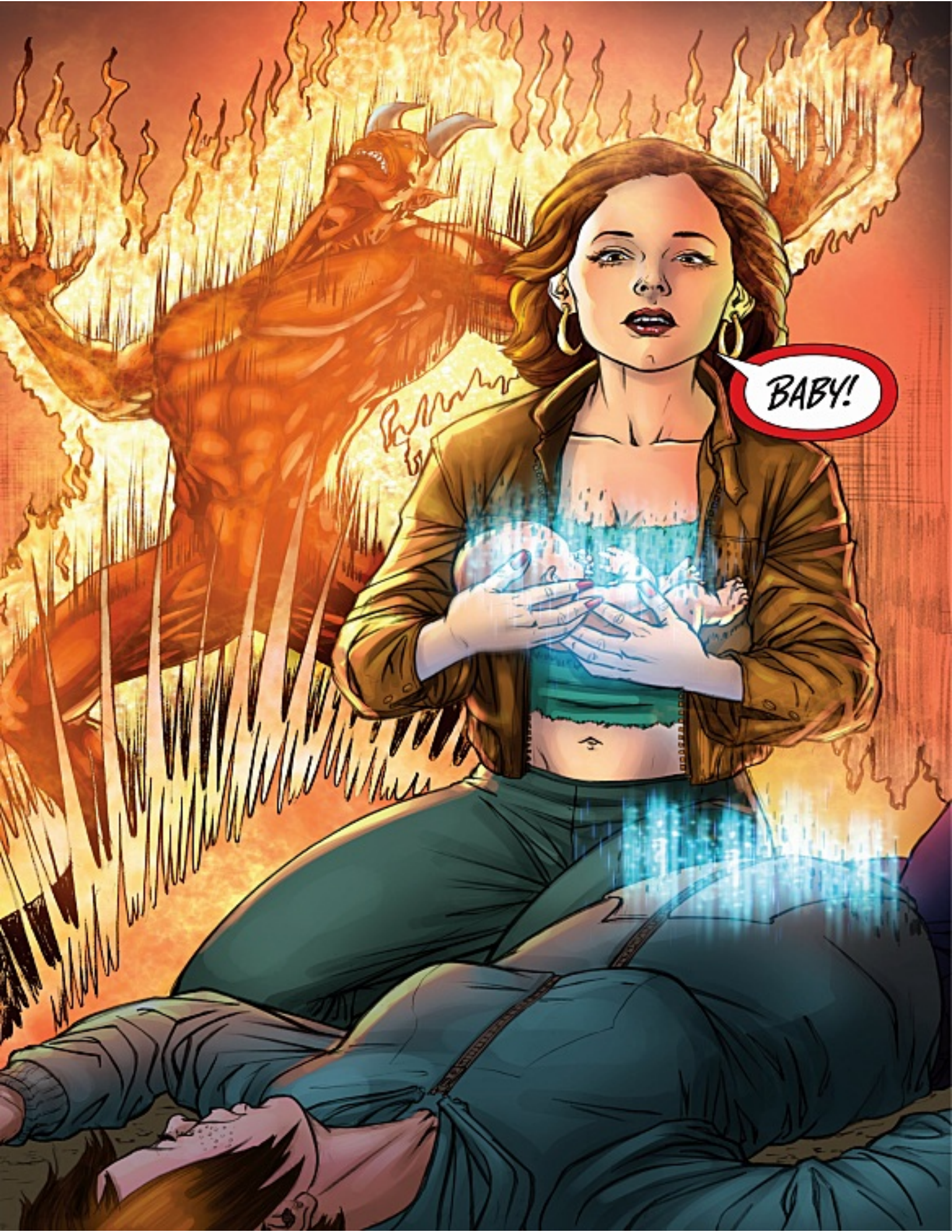
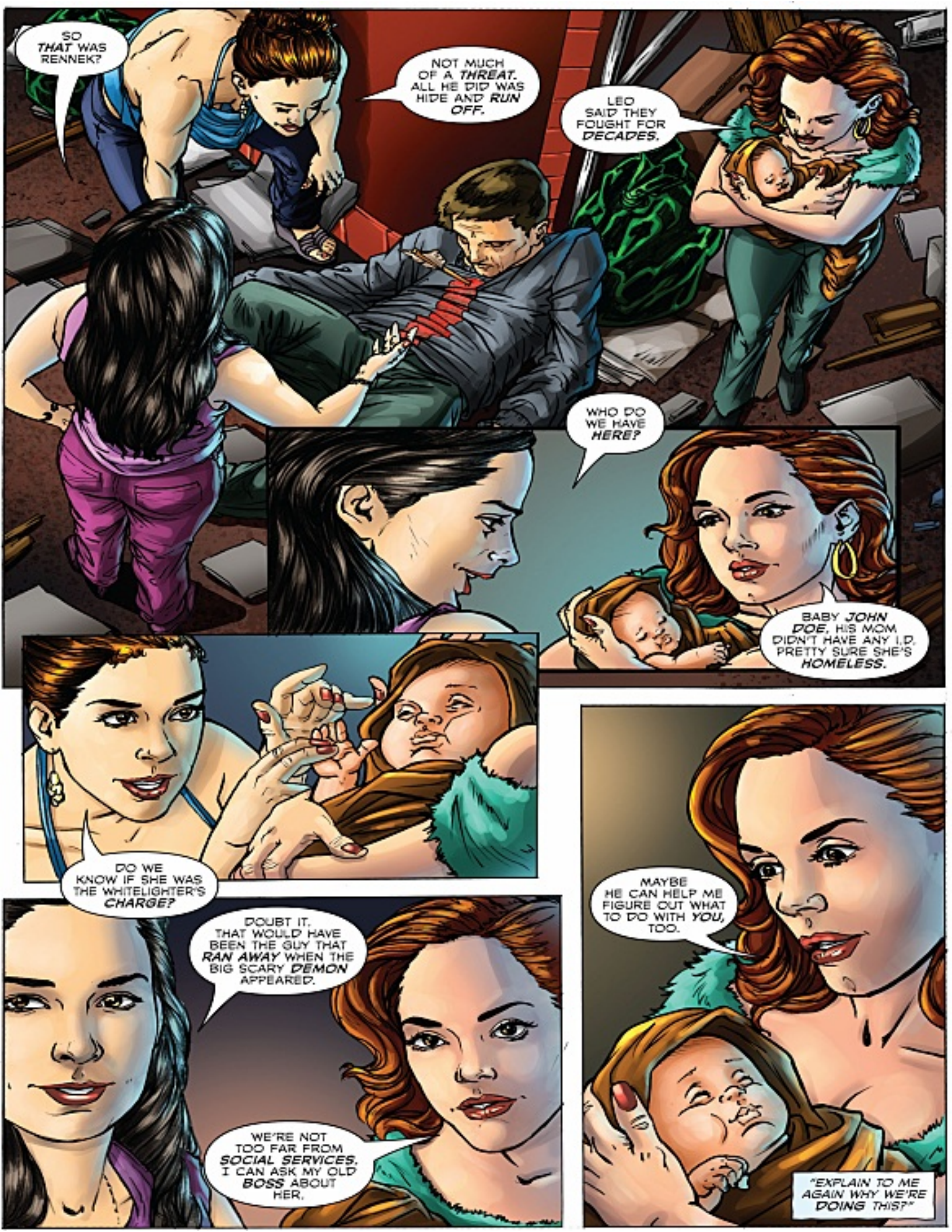
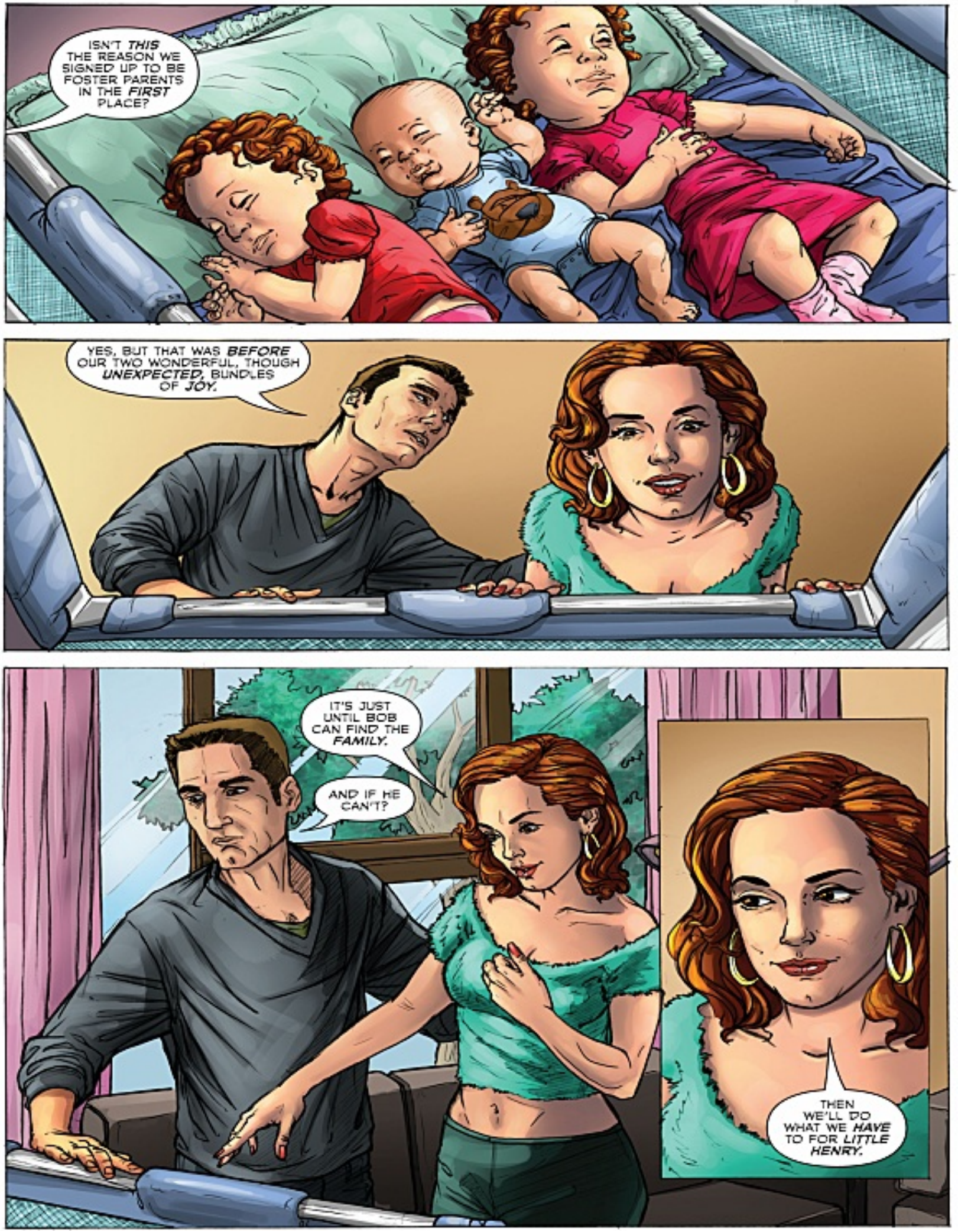
PAIGE, WE COULD *REALLY* USE YOUR *HELP* HERE!
HOW'S THE *GIRL?*
SHE'S DEAD.
BUT HER *BABY* IS STILL *ALIVE.*
I HOPE THIS *WORKS.*

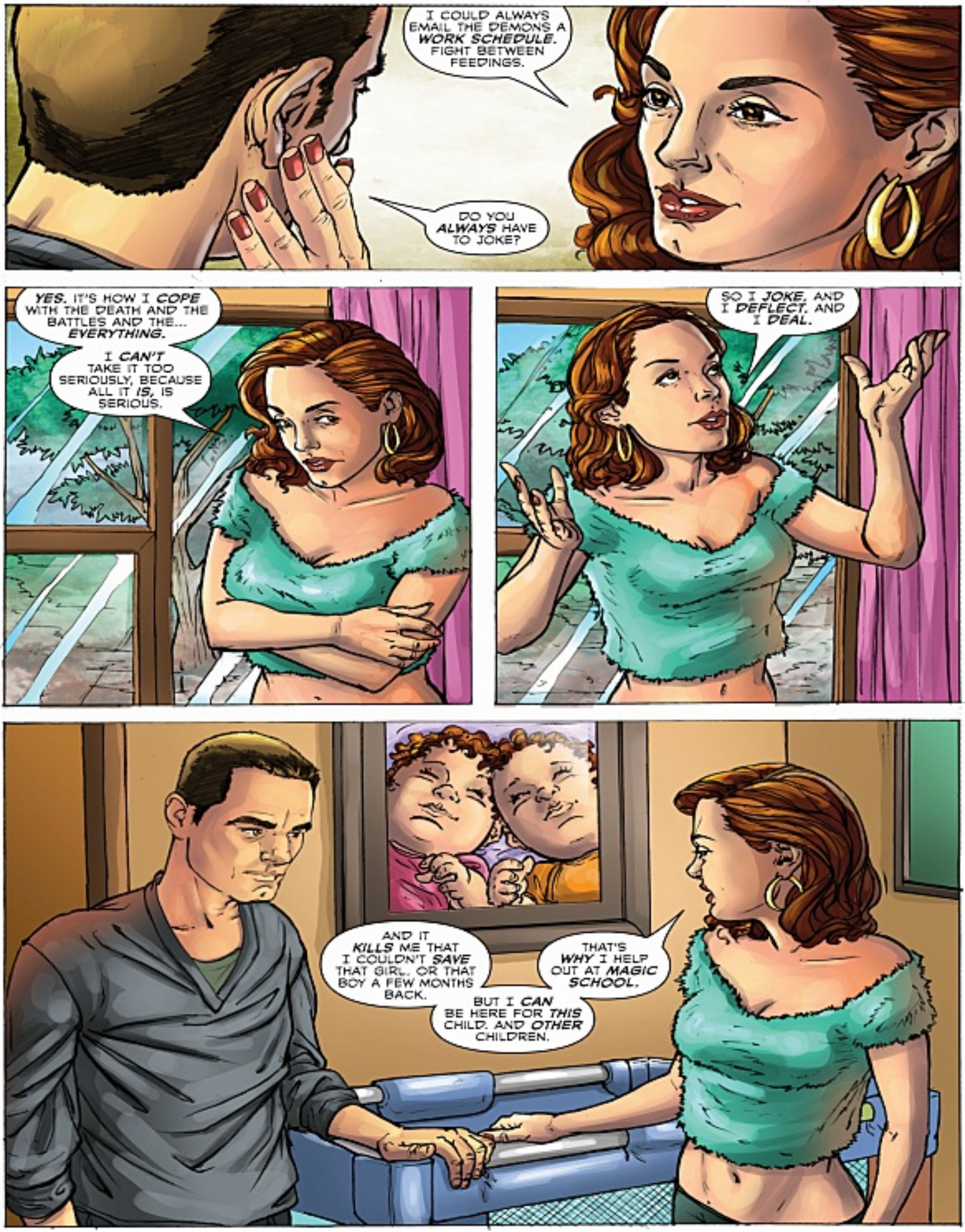

BABY!

COME OUT, RENNEK. WE KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU.
I WAS HOPING WE COULD HOLD OFF THIS MEETING A LITTLE LONGER.
GOOD WAY TO DO THAT IS TO STOP ATTACKING WHITELIGHTERS.
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT. TELL YOUR HUSBAND I SAID HI.


SO THAT WAS RENNEK?
NOT MUCH OF A THREAT. ALL HE DID WAS HIDE AND RUN OFF.
LEO SAID THEY FOUGHT FOR DECADES.
WHO DO WE HAVE HERE?
BABY JOHN DOE, HIS MOM DIDN'T HAVE ANY I.D. PRETTY SURE SHE'S HOMELESS.
DO WE KNOW IF SHE WAS THE WHITELIGHTER'S CHARGE?
DOUBT IT. THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE GUY THAT RAN AWAY WHEN THE BIG SCARY DEMON APPEARED.
WE'RE NOT TOO FAR FROM SOCIAL SERVICES. I CAN ASK MY OLD BOSS ABOUT HER.
MAYBE HE CAN HELP ME FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH YOU, TOO.
"EXPLAIN TO ME AGAIN WHY WE'RE DOING THIS?"


ISN'T THIS THE REASON WE SIGNED UP TO BE FOSTER PARENTS IN THE FIRST PLACE?
YES, BUT THAT WAS BEFORE OUR TWO WONDERFUL, THOUGH UNEXPECTED, BUNDLES OF JOY.
IT'S JUST UNTIL BOB CAN FIND THE FAMILY.
AND IF HE CAN'T?
THEN WE'LL DO WHAT WE HAVE TO FOR LITTLE HENRY.

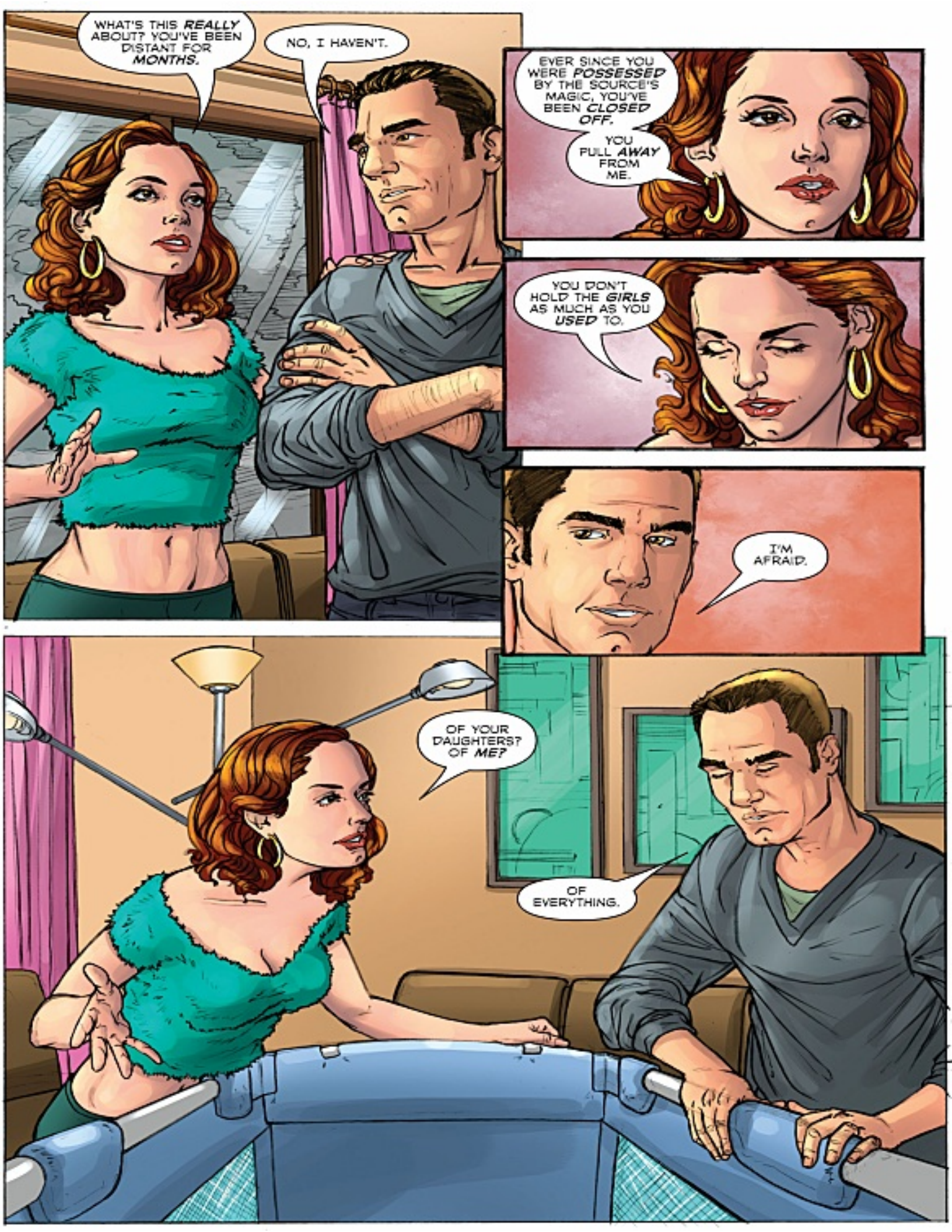
PAIGE, DON'T DO THAT.
WE *HAVE* TO CALL HIM SOMETHING.
WE CAN'T *AFFORD* THIS. NOT ON OUR SALARIES. MAGIC SCHOOL RECRUITER DOESN'T EXACTLY PAY *WELL.*
THAT'S NOT THE *ONLY* THING BOTHERING YOU, IS IT?
IT ISN'T A GOOD *TIME* TO BRING ANOTHER *CHILD* INTO OUR LIVES.
WHEN *IS?*
THAT'S *MY POINT.*
DO YOU THINK THIS DARKLIGHTER WILL COME AFTER *YOU?*
THE *GIRLS?*
PART-WHITELIGHTERS ARE PROBABLY *LOW* ON THE LIST. KAT AND TAM HAVEN'T EVEN COME INTO THEIR *POWERS* YET.

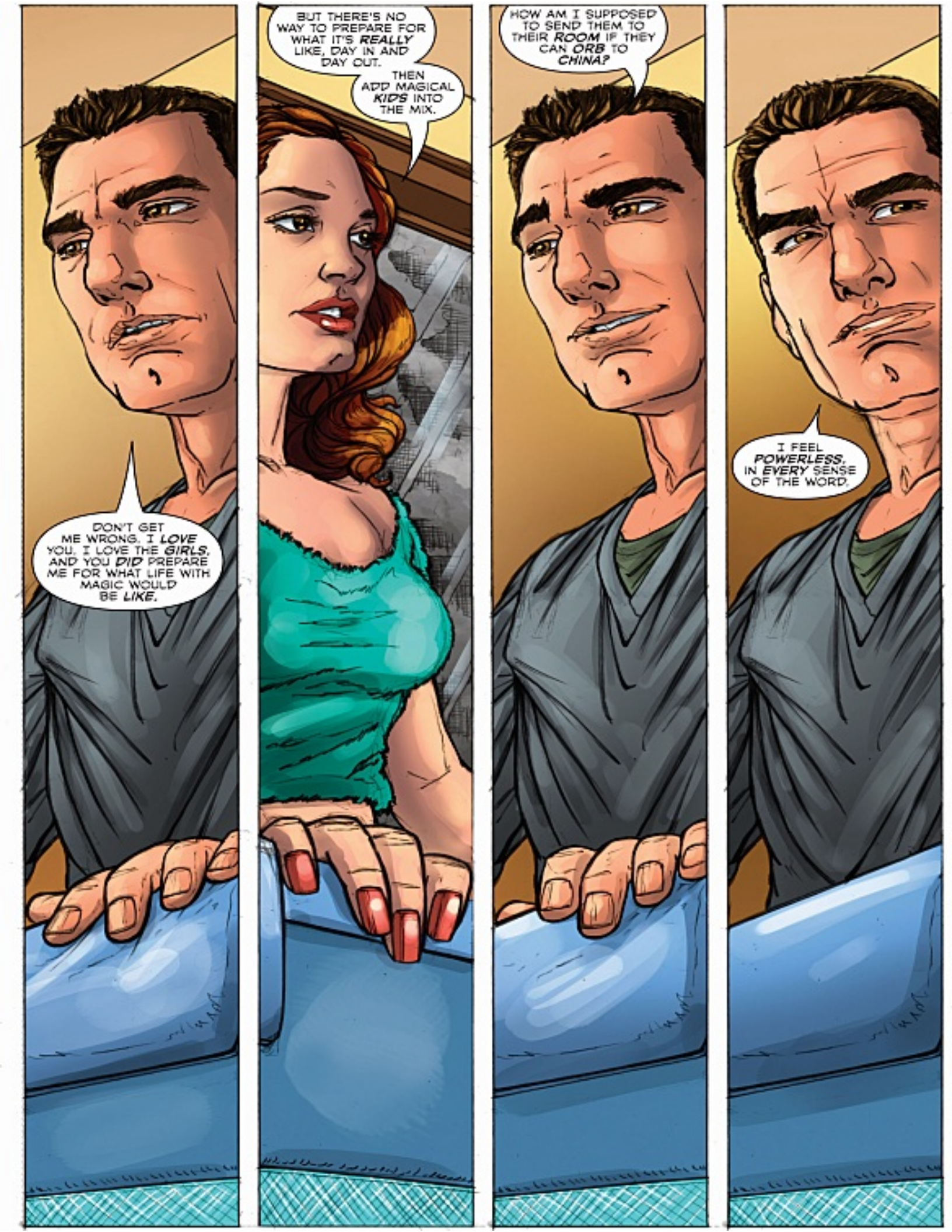

I COULD ALWAYS EMAIL THE DEMONS A *WORK SCHEDULE.* FIGHT BETWEEN FEEDINGS.
DO YOU *ALWAYS* HAVE TO JOKE?
YES. IT'S HOW I *COPE* WITH THE DEATH AND THE BATTLES AND THE... *EVERYTHING.*
I *CAN'T* TAKE IT TOO SERIOUSLY, BECAUSE ALL IT *IS,* IS SERIOUS.
SO I *JOKE,* AND I *DEFLECT,* AND I *DEAL.*
AND IT *KILLS* ME THAT I COULDN'T *SAVE* THAT GIRL, OR THAT BOY A FEW MONTHS BACK.
THAT'S *WHY* I HELP OUT AT *MAGIC SCHOOL.*
BUT I *CAN* BE HERE FOR *THIS* CHILD. AND *OTHER* CHILDREN.

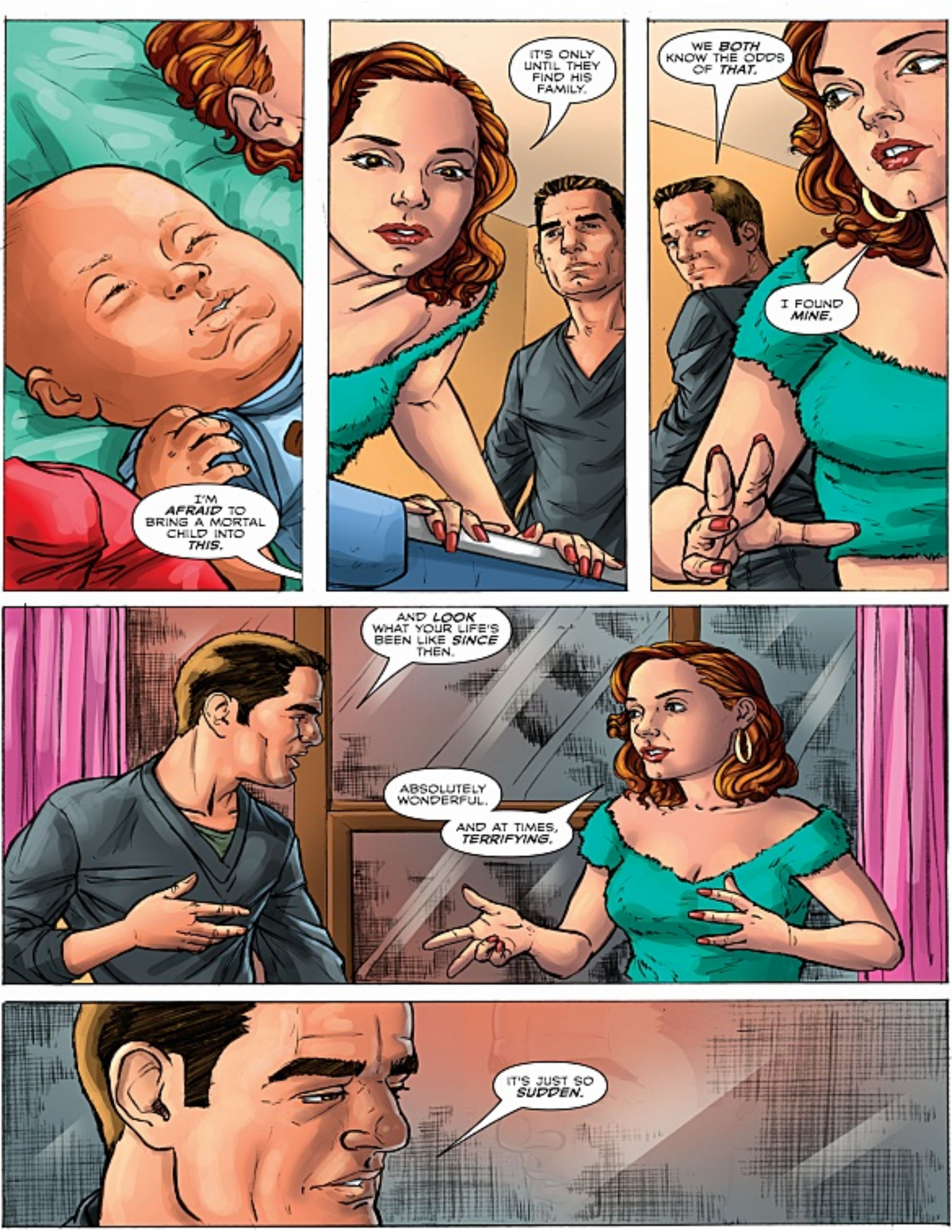
"THAT'S WHY I DO WHAT I DO."
I GOT OUT OF THERE AS SOON AS I COULD. DIDN'T ENGAGE THE CHARMED ONES.
I WANTED TO KEEP THEM OUT OF THIS.
BY THE TIME THEY REALIZE WHAT WE'RE UP TO, I'LL HAVE WHAT I WANT.
BUT WILL I GET WHAT YOU PROMISED?
WOULD'VE LEFT THEM OUT OF IT ENTIRELY IF I DIDN'T NEED TO DIVIDE THE SOURCE'S POWER TO MAKE MY ARMY STRONG ENOUGH.
YOU HONESTLY THINK IT'S SMART TO HIDE YOUR REAL PLAN FROM THE DEMONS?

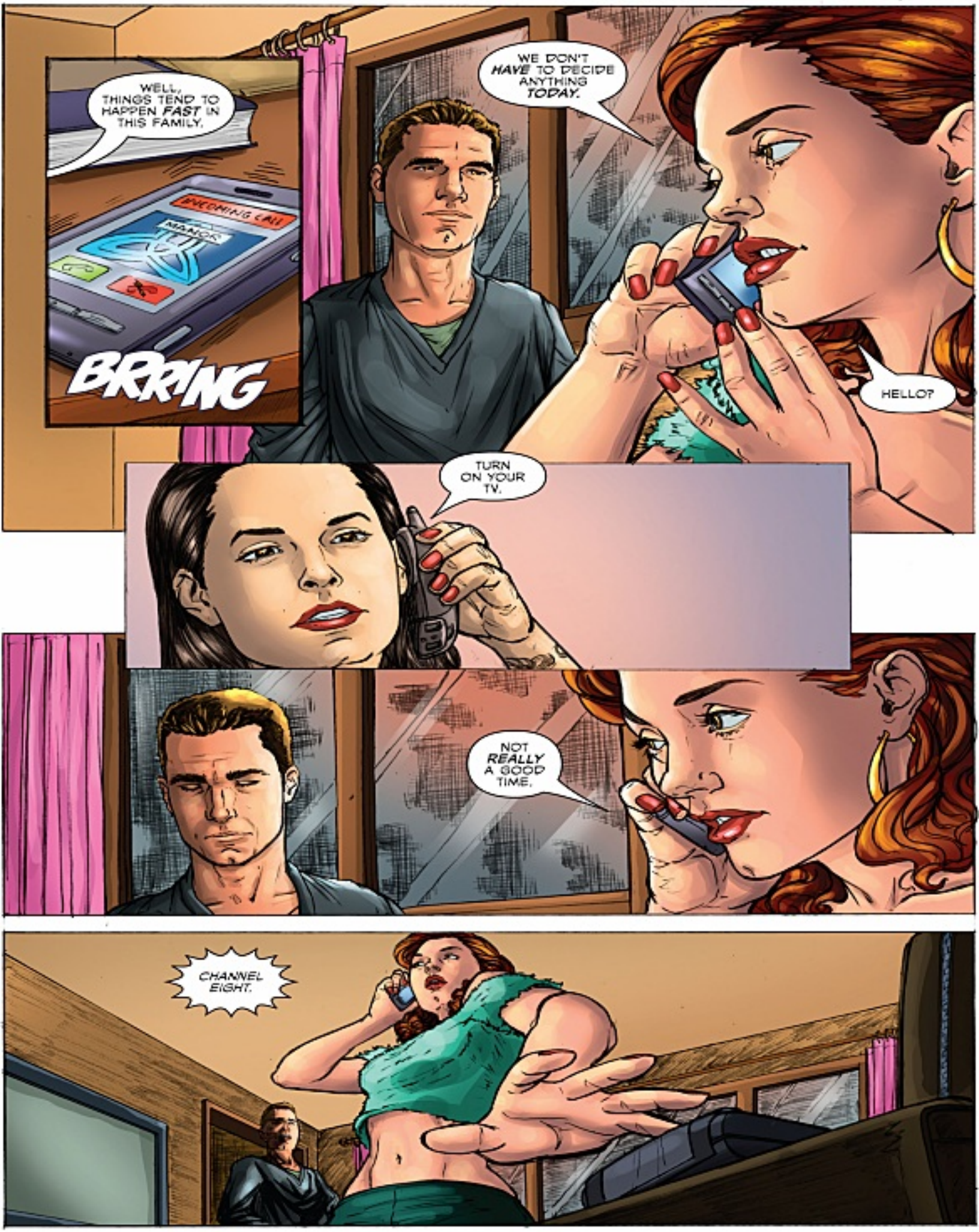
RENNEK, DON'T YOU *TRUST* ME?
YOU *DID* KILL YOUR *LAST* PARTNER.
HOGAN WASN'T A *PARTNER.* HE WAS A *MEANS* TO AN *END.* A DISTRACTION TO KEEP THE *DEMONS* OCCUPIED.
TO KEEP *THEM* FROM REALIZING WHO YOU *ARE?* THEY'RE GOING TO FIGURE IT OUT *EVENTUALLY.*
BUT NOT SOON *ENOUGH.*

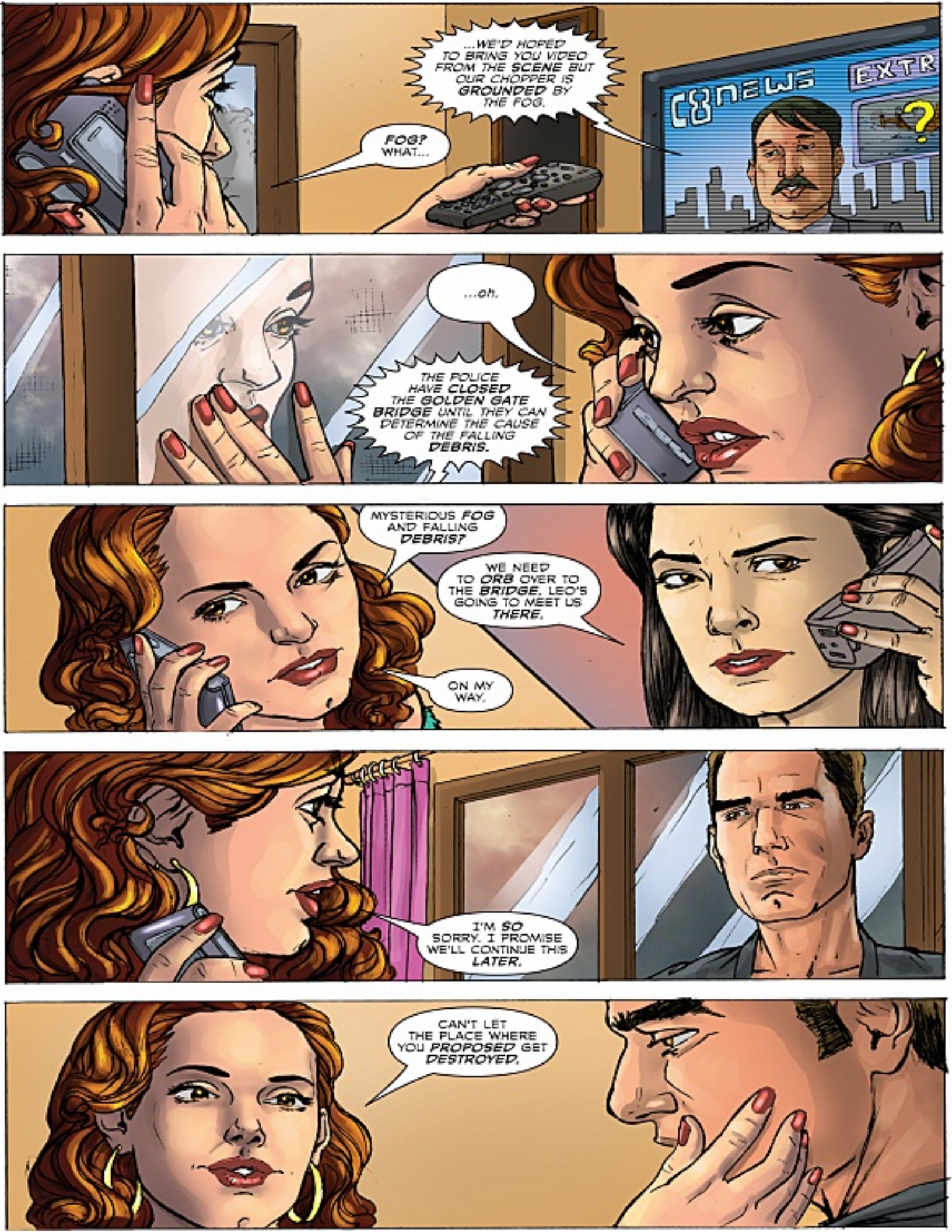
YOU'VE COLLECTED ENOUGH *ORBS* FOR OUR ARMY?
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS *YOUR* SHARE.
IT'S GOING TO TAKE A LITTLE *MORE* THAN *WHITELIGHTER* POWERS TO GET ME WHERE *WE'RE* GOING.
I NEED A SMALL CONTINGENT OF *DEMONS,* FOR A START.


WHAT'S THIS REALLY ABOUT? YOU'VE BEEN DISTANT FOR MONTHS.
NO, I HAVEN'T.
EVER SINCE YOU WERE POSSESSED BY THE SOURCE'S MAGIC, YOU'VE BEEN CLOSED OFF.
YOU PULL AWAY FROM ME.
YOU DON'T HOLD THE GIRLS AS MUCH AS YOU USED TO.
I'M AFRAID.
OF YOUR DAUGHTERS? OF ME?
OF EVERYTHING.

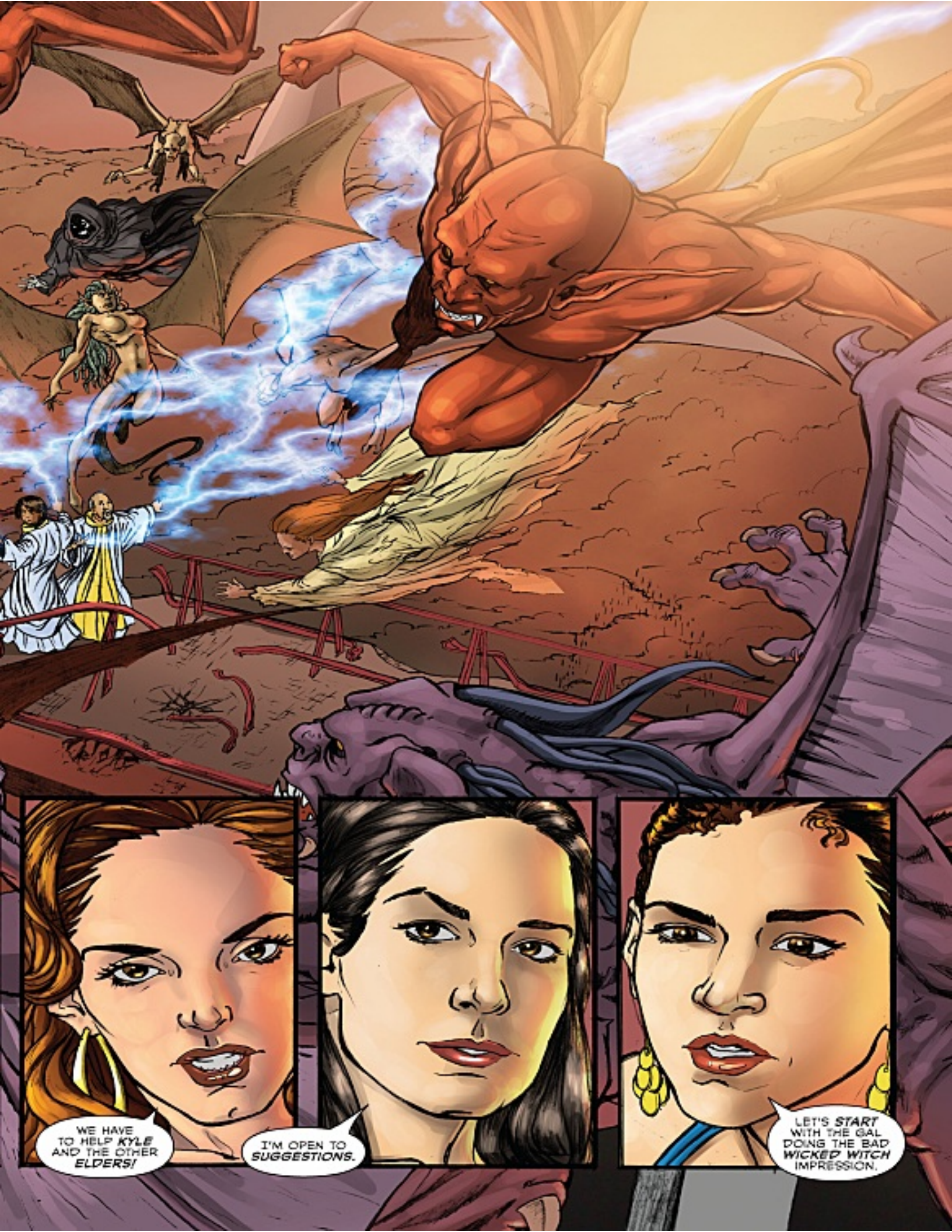

DON'T GET ME WRONG. I LOVE YOU. I LOVE THE GIRLS, AND YOU DID PREPARE ME FOR WHAT LIFE WITH MAGIC WOULD BE LIKE.
BUT THERE'S NO WAY TO PREPARE FOR WHAT IT'S REALLY LIKE, DAY IN AND DAY OUT.
THEN ADD MAGICAL KIDS INTO THE MIX.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO SEND THEM TO THEIR ROOM IF THEY CAN ORB TO CHINA?
I FEEL POWERLESS, IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD.


I'M AFRAID TO BRING A MORTAL CHILD INTO THIS.
IT'S ONLY UNTIL THEY FIND HIS FAMILY.
WE BOTH KNOW THE ODDS OF THAT.
I FOUND MINE.
AND LOOK WHAT YOUR LIFE'S BEEN LIKE SINCE THEN.
ABSOLUTELY WONDERFUL.
AND AT TIMES, TERRIFYING.
IT'S JUST SO SUDDEN.


WELL, THINGS TEND TO HAPPEN FAST IN THIS FAMILY.
INCOMING CALL
MANICK
BRRING
WE DON'T HAVE TO DECIDE ANYTHING TODAY.
HELLO?
TURN ON YOUR TV.
NOT REALLY A GOOD TIME.
CHANNEL EIGHT.

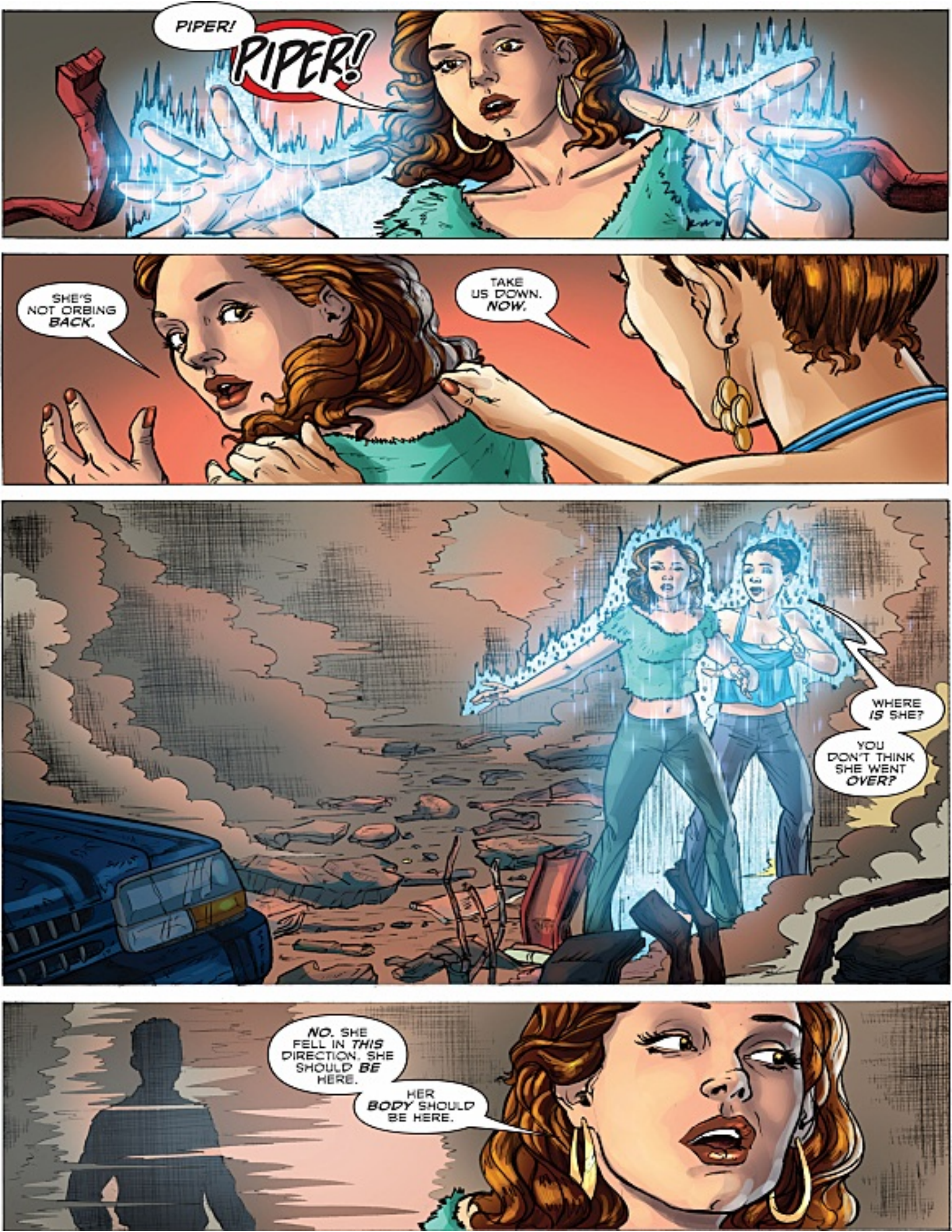

...WE'D HOPED TO BRING YOU VIDEO FROM THE SCENE BUT OUR CHOPPER IS GROUNDED BY THE FOG.
FOG? WHAT...
CBnews
EXTR
?
...oh.
THE POLICE HAVE CLOSED THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE UNTIL THEY CAN DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF THE FALLING DEBRIS.
MYSTERIOUS FOG AND FALLING DEBRIS?
WE NEED TO ORB OVER TO THE BRIDGE. LEO'S GOING TO MEET US THERE.
ON MY WAY.
I'M SO SORRY. I PROMISE WE'LL CONTINUE THIS LATER.
CAN'T LET THE PLACE WHERE YOU PROPOSED GET DESTROYED.

FLY, MY PRETTIES. FLY!
Always wanted to say that.

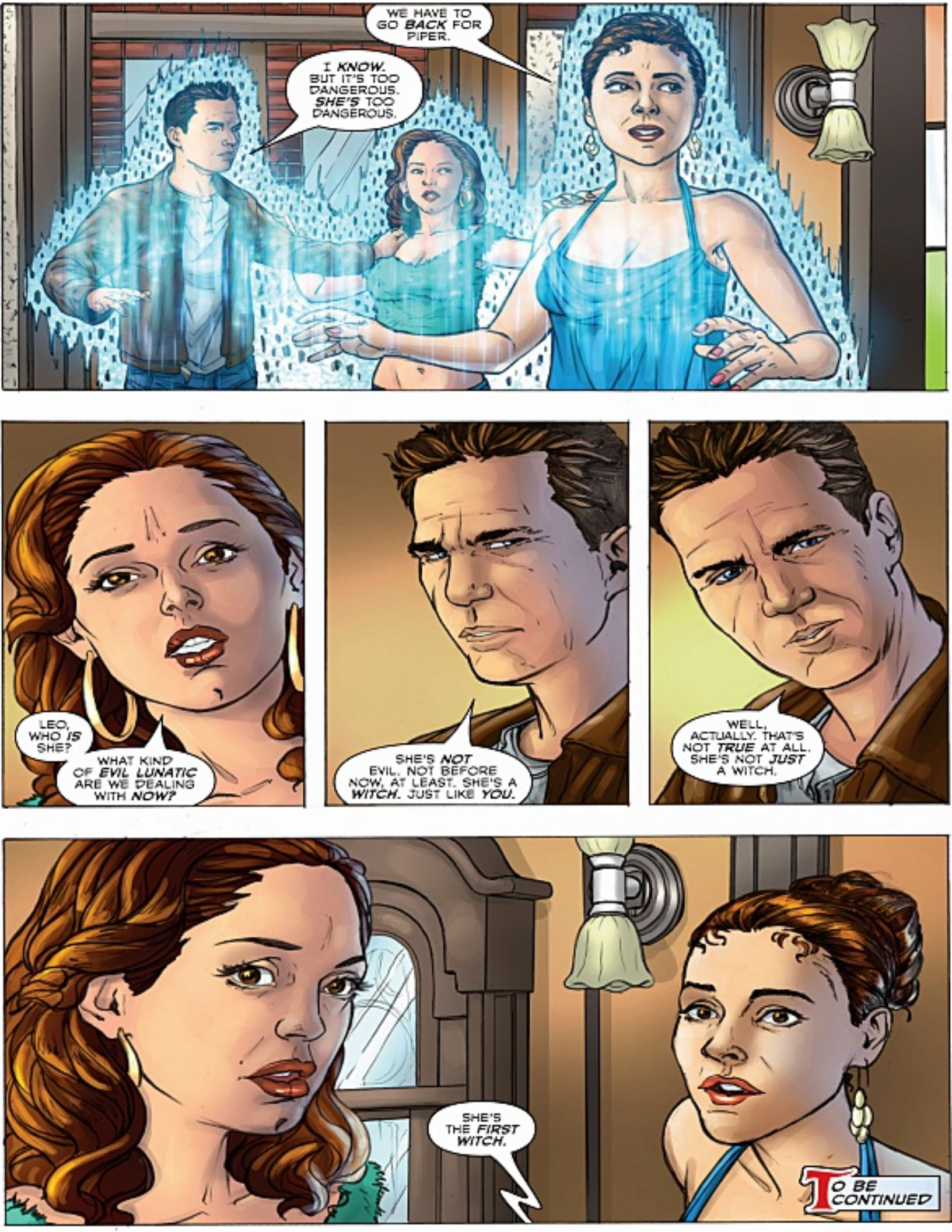

WE HAVE TO HELP KYLE AND THE OTHER ELDERS!
I'M OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS.
LET'S START WITH THE GAL DOING THE BAD WICKED WITCH IMPRESSION.

INCOMING!
NOW, BE GENTLE, RENNEK.
KYLE!

OH, HELLO.
AND GOODBYE!
AAAAAAAH


PIPER!
PIPER!
SHE'S NOT ORBING BACK.
TAKE US DOWN. NOW.
WHERE IS SHE?
YOU DON'T THINK SHE WENT OVER?
NO. SHE FELL IN THIS DIRECTION. SHE SHOULD BE HERE.
HER BODY SHOULD BE HERE.

GOT HERE AS FAST AS I COULD. THE POLICE BLOCKED OFF THE BRIDGE.
WHERE'S PIPER?
SHE DISAPPEARED.
SOME CRAZY BITCH BLEW HER OFF THE TOWER.
THAT'S HER. SHE'S BEHIND THIS.
NO. IT CAN'T BE.
WE HAVE TO GO. NOW.
BUT, PIPER--
WE'LL FIND HER LATER.
PAIGE, GET US OUT OF HERE!


WE HAVE TO GO BACK FOR PIPER.
I KNOW. BUT IT'S TOO DANGEROUS. SHE'S TOO DANGEROUS.
LEO, WHO IS SHE?
WHAT KIND OF EVIL LUNATIC ARE WE DEALING WITH NOW?
SHE'S NOT EVIL. NOT BEFORE NOW, AT LEAST. SHE'S A WITCH. JUST LIKE YOU.
WELL, ACTUALLY. THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL. SHE'S NOT JUST A WITCH.
SHE'S THE FIRST WITCH.
TO BE CONTINUED

Cover by
DAVID
SEIDMAN

With a family member lost, the elders under siege and an unstoppable force about to wreak havoc on the world, Leo reveals an ancient secret to the Charmed Ones. They must learn the very source of their craft and the true origins of the magic they possess if they have any chance of defeating their latest threat.

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